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ABSTRACT

Text and illustrations are used to teach safe school bus riding practices. The guide begins with instructions to parents or guardians to set a good example of safe behavior, and to help children learn safety rules and be on time. Instructions to children concern obeying the bus driver, boarding the bus, riding the bus, crossing the road, and using the emergency exit. The final page of the booklet is a certificate, to be filled out individually for the student, stating completion of the Illinois school bus safety material. (MLF)

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A Safe Ride to School
A Safe Ride Home

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FOREWORD

The school bus is an integral part of the education program. At the present time, more than 900 thousand Illinois pupils ride school buses daily. There are over sixteen thousand such vehicles currently in operation in the state, traveling more than 120 million miles per year.

The safety of pupils riding school buses is of primary concern to parents and to bus operators, and it is an accepted responsibility of school administrators and teachers. It is also an important responsibility of the pupils and should be a regular and continuing part of their education.

Standards for pupil transportation safety have been established by the United States Department of Transportation's Standard 17 (1972, amended 1973), which, among other things, provides that "each pupil who is transported in a school vehicle shall be *instructed in safe riding practices* and participate in emergency evacuation drills." In addition, school bus safety practices are mandated in the *Illinois Motor Vehicle Code* and *The School Code of Illinois.*

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To Parent or Guardian:

The school bus is one key to **Better Education.** It means your children can go to better schools. It trains them in safety, in responsibility, in independence, and in courtesy.

And **you** are important members of the school bus safety team.

1. **You** can help **your** children learn the simple safety rules—and **obey** them.
2. **You** can see that **your** children are at the bus stop **on time,** and that they take the safest route to and from the bus stop.
3. **You** can **set an example** for your children by your own **safe behavior** behind the wheel and as a pedestrian.
4. **You** can see that **your** children respect the **bus driver** as a teacher.
5. **You** as a taxpayer and citizen, can **support** a program to provide your community with the **best school bus program** possible.

Safe bus rides mean a team of people working together using the same safety rules.

Who's the most important member of the team?

It's **YOU!**

To do your job, you need —

Self-Discipline	Doing what's right and safe without being told
Independence	Knowing what to do when you're on your own
Training	Learning all you need to know to be a safe rider

What's a School Bus? A school bus is an expensive machine built to save you a long walk to school and back each day and get you there safely in all kinds of weather.

Is it dangerous? Not if you learn the bus safety rules and obey the driver at all times.

The Bus Driver

- has been safety trained.
- has a bus driver permit.
- knows the safety rules.
- has **your** safety as his/her chief goal.

He/She needs **you** to help him/her

- to pay attention when he/she speaks.
- to learn the safety rules.
- to do what he/she asks you to.

GET READY !

BE ON TIME !

Good busmanship and safe behavior start **at home** — before you begin your ride.

Plan to leave home at the **same time each day** —

so that you will be at your **bus stop** just a few minutes before the bus.

That means **without rushing**

— haste makes accidents,

But **not too early**

— The edge of a busy road is no place to fool or play.

If you **know** you won't be riding the bus, let the driver know.

Promptness + Politeness = Safety

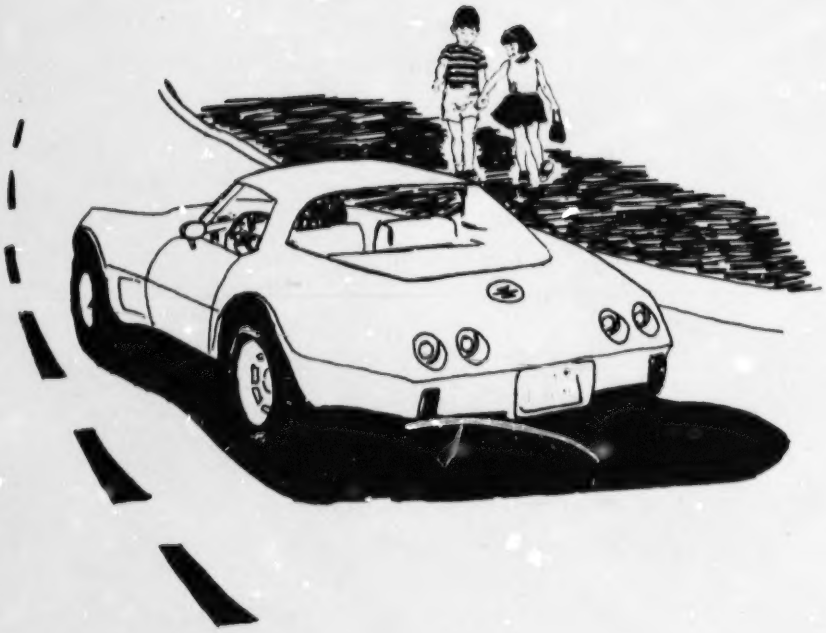
All Aboard!

If you have to walk where there are no sidewalks, face traffic.

— Use the left side of road so drivers can see you and you can see them.

Stay as far off the road as possible — go single file.

Do not litter or cross people's lawns.



At The **Bus Stop**

Don't wait in the street — stay back away from the edge of the roadway.

Wait until the bus comes to a **full** stop before you move forward.

It saves time and trouble if you **line up** with little ones **first.**

Use Handrail to help keep your balance as you go up the steps **one at a time.**

Take a seat close to the front.

Put books or bundles where they can't slide or fall — under the seat or on your lap — never on a ledge or overhead rack or in the aisle.

Keep your arms and legs **out of** the aisles where they might trip someone.

Act as you would in the classroom. No loud talking -- so that the driver can hear horns, train whistles or other traffic sounds. Visiting with your neighbor is fine.

Save snacks and homework for later -- A sudden stop can send everything flying.

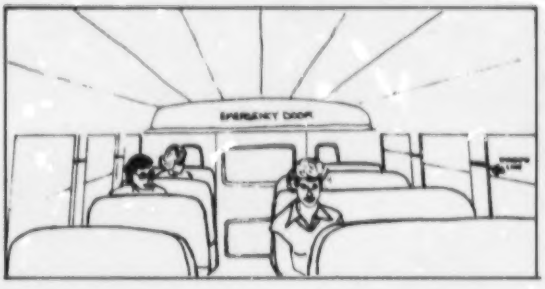
Try not to carry big or heavy things on the bus.

If you must carry big things like a musical instrument or home project, try to get someone to drive you to the school.

Pets don't belong on school buses. If you want to take an animal to school, you should first get permission from the principal and bus driver.

Ask for permission to lower windows. Only lower them to the "window line" that is painted on the space between the windows.

Your head and hands are safest inside the bus — so don't stick anything out of the window.



Stay quietly in your seat until the trip is over and the bus comes to a **full stop.**

Line up on the way out — if everyone tries to get off at once, it will just **slow things down** more.

Always use the **handrail** when you go up or down bus steps. It's there to protect you from slips and trips.

Watch your **step** — don't jump or take a "giant step" to the curb. Step into the gutter if you can't make the sidewalk.

Get away from the unloading zone quickly — if you wait for friends — get safely back from traffic.

HOW TO CROSS THE ROAD – SAFELY

Crossing the road is the most **dangerous** part of a bus trip. Traffic should stop. But – don't depend on it!

Follow these steps –

Get off **promptly** as soon as the bus comes to a **full stop.**

Walk **10 steps ahead of bus** along the edge of the road.

Stop and look at the driver and **wait** until she/he gives you a **signal to cross** – then double check both ways yourself to be sure it is still clear to cross.

Walk quickly across – don't run – don't stop or turn back.

Get **off** the roadway on the other side.

If you follow the suggestions that are in this booklet, the chances are you will never be in an accident — but — just in case your school bus should be in an accident —

Play it safe

Stay in your seat until the driver tells you what to do. Don't panic and move around without thinking.

Don't touch emergency equipment or safety releases until told by the driver.

If you have to use an emergency exit

1. Let those closest to the exit go first — crowding will delay everyone.
2. Duck your head as you go out.
3. Wrap loose clothing — coat edges, shirttails, etc., around you so they won't get caught.
4. Keep your hands free — leave everything behind.
5. Bend your knees if it's a big jump down.
6. Get away from exit so others can get out.
7. Take 50 big steps away from the bus off the roadway and stay in a group until the driver gives you more information.

Illinois State Board of Education

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This will certify that

_____ of _____ Elementary School

has successfully completed the Illinois School Bus Safety material promoting safe travel from home to school and back again.

_____
Date

_____ _____
Teacher Principal